

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Thursday May 23. 1711.

NO W, Gentlemen, you that are for calling the Episcopal Party in Scotland your Brethren, that say they are the same sort of People with the Church of England, and are so angry with the Presbyterian Church, for refusing to Tollerate them—The last Review gave you one Specimen of some of those People—I now present you with another Paper of the same Kind, and the same Persons—The Papers have been both read in the General Assembly now Sitting, and an Account of the whole is now laid before Her Majesty by his Grace the Queen's Commissioner.

What a Condition the Church of Scotland is in, and where these things will end is plain, since as I am inform'd now in several Places, the Presbyterians of the Establish'd Church, cannot go in safety to hear, or their Ministers to preach, even in their own Parish Churches—Should this drive them to a necessity of going arm'd to their Churches to hear their Ministers, and to keep off the Rabbles, and if the other come to disturb them in the same armed manner, any one may soon judge what will quickly be the Fate of Scotland. But I'll first give you the Story, and then proceed.

At Jaine, the 12th April, 1711.

THE which Day, in presence of the Provincial Synod of Ross and Sutherland, the Committee for Overtures, Bills, References and Appeals, transmitted a Representation and Petition for Mr. John Morison, Minister of Gerlock, which being read, was appointed to be recorded; of which Paper the Tenor follows.

To the very Reverend the Moderator, and Remainent Members of the Provincial Synod of Ross and Sutherland, met at Jaine, the 11th Day of April, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Eleven Years; the Representation and Petition of Mr. John Morison, Minister of Gerlock,

Sheweth,

That whereas your Petitioner having preach'd four Sabbaths in Full last, in the Paroch of Gerlock, the People of that Paroch, with the residing Heritors and Tutor of Gerlock testifi'd their Satisfaction with my Ministry, not only by their numerous Attendance upon Sermon, and bringing their Children to be Baptized, and others of them being Married by me; but also by proceeding thereafter voluntarily to give me a Call from the Paroch of Boleskine, where I was Minister, to be their Minister: Which Call, subscrib'd by all the residing Heritors, and severals of the Inhabitants that could write, was sustained by the united Presbytries of Dingwall and Chenerie, and they with the Presbyteries Concurrence, did prosecute and obtain (before the Reverend Presbytrie of Inverness) my Transportation from Boleskin to Gerlock: Upon which, and an Edict return'd, I was (upon the first of March last) admitted Minister of Gerlock at Kirclean-kirk; this was done there in regard the Kirk of Gerlock is sixty Miles distant from the Dwellings of some of the Ministers in that Presbytrie, whereof

there is a wild Desert eighteen Miles long, without any Inhabitant, and being then cover'd with Snow, and that their Number was few, and some of them Vagabundary; the Paroch of Gerlock being present there by their Commissioner. Thereafter your Petitioner being for some time necessarily detained therow Sickness from my Paroch, upon the second Day of April current, having recover'd something of my Health, I went forward to Gerlock, and having come after two Days Journey to Kenlock, in the Confines of the Padoch, I was intercepted by a Party of ten Men, all Tenants to Sir John MacKenzie of Cowl; the Ringleaders whereof John Kemp in Kenlock, Kenneth MacKenzie, Weaver, and Donald MacForquair, alias MacLean, Shoemaker there, who declared plainly, they had their Warrant from Rorie MacKenzie, there, alias MacKenzie, and Rorie MacKeckin, Taxman to the said Sir John MacKenzie; in that Place the said Partie laid violent Hands on me and my Servant, rent my Cloaths, made Prisoners of us, and kept us three Days under Guard, in a Cottage full of Cattle and their Dung, without Meat or Bedding; the first two Days they reliev'ing one another by turns once every Day by a fresh supply of Men, all being Tenants to the said Sir John, declaring with Grief, that they were forc'd by the said Rorie MacKenzie to use this Barbarity; and that it was most lamentable to them to be so employ'd. During my said Imprisonment, the said Rorie MacKenzie deny'd to continue with me, though at sometimes we were within distance of speaking to one another, and that I saw him, and cry'd to him, so as he did hear me, but by Messages I intreated him for Liberty, to return the Way I came, or to go forward to my Kirk, or, if they kept me, to allow me a clean House, Maintenance and Bedding, during my Imprisonment; all which was refused me, and I was detain'd as abovesaid till Sabbath Morning, at which time a new Party

Party of Gerlock's Tenants (who is Minor) the Ringleaders whereof were Murchou Mac-Yurcivicechin, alias Mac-Kenzie, and Murchou Mac-Millmoir, came armed, and by Violence pressed me and my Man out of that Place, the said Morning, obliging us to travel a long Journey that Day, and left me Monday Morning within two Miles of the abovemention'd Sir John's House, and carried away my Man, whether I could not know, declaring when they came, that they had Orders from John Mac-Kenzie Brother-Germane to the late Gerlock, so to treat me: All the Persons in either of these Parties made a secret Regret to me, declaring they were sure'd to this barbarous Treatment by the Menaces of Sir John Mac-Kenzie of Coul, Collin Mac-Kenzie, Tutor of Gerlock, and the foresaid John Mac-Kenzie, who they said threatened all the Paroch, if they shewed any Kindness to me, or any Presbyterian Minister in their Bound', or did not to them al the Harm in their Power: And the said Parties bewailed, and declared the Universal Concern of the Paroch for their Desolation their two Years by past, being thirty Miles distant from any Minister; so that their Children were dying without Baptism, and they oblig'd to travel to the hazard of their Lives for the benefit of Marriage; and expressed their Regret, that they were not allow'd to enjoy me, or the Benefit of my Ministry, after all their Expectations and Desires after me; that it was given out amongst them, That Presbytery was a Dying Cause, and that there was encouragement to expect their Cur'ras restor'd, and therefore they would keep their Vacancies unsettled, and laboured to keep me out, tho' settled by the Presbyterie. Upon Monday's Morning I used some Endeavour to be allow'd, to see and converse with Sir John Mac-Kenzie of Coul, by writing to him thereant; and upon Tuesday thereaster I met with him, and gave him an Account of my Treatment amongst his Tenants,

I told him they declared they had his Orders for what they did; and ask'd if he would own the same, or if he disown'd it, would give me his safe Conduet to my Paroch, whereby I might peaceably exercise my Ministry amongt my Flock? To which he answer'd, That he was not oblig'd to own any such Orders, but plaidly own'd, that where-ever he had Power he would hinder the Settlement of any Presbyterian Minister. To which I reply'd, That I was already settled Minister of Gerlock, and how could I be stopp'd from officiating amongt my People, considering the Civil Establishment of the Government of this Church? To which he answer'd, That it woud be the Queen's Forces, after Application to British Parliament, that would give me fooing, or any Presbyterian Minister in that Place, or in any other Paroch where he had Interest or Influence; and that he did not own the Authority of the Presbytrie that admitted me; and thus he behaved, tho' one of the Justices of the Peace for the County, and an Heritor in the Paroch of Gerlock.

May it therefore please the very Reverend Synod to take the Premises to their Consideration, and to do therein as in their Wisdoms they shall judge fit.

The Synod having heard and consider'd the said Representation and Petition, appointed that an Extract thereof be sent to the ensuing General Assembly extract-ed forth of the Records of the Synod.

Sic Subscriptur,
David Ros, C. S.

I shall add no Comment of mine to this Story in this Paper, only observe that this Sir John Mackenzie, who has thus behaved himself, is at this time One of Her Majesty's Justices of the Peace.

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